

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE, BOX H
BOULDER, MT 59632
PHONE 406-225-4025
FAX 406-225-4148

TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
January 3, 2006**

Present: Commissioners Lythgoe, Notbohm and Weber; Gary Hazbutzel, Jan Anderson

MINUTES

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the minutes of December 6. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 1//04 Meeting with MDT re: Robbins Lane - Helena - 8:30
Meeting with Stahly Engineering re: landscaping for roundabout - Helena - 10:00
Headwaters RC&D - 1:30
- 1/05 Elected Official/Department Head meeting - 10:00
Whitehall Chamber - noon
- 1/06 Meet with Pat Crowley - DEQ - 10:00
- 1/10 Discuss Infrastructure Study with Great West Engineering - 8:30
DEQ public meeting re: proposed administrative rule change - 10:00

COMMISSION REPORTS

ROBBINS LANE

Commissioner Weber reported that on the previous Friday, he did a lot of research on Robbins Lane. In his research, he found information to support the county's position.

PAYROLL ISSUES

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that he spoke with Kellie Doherty and Bonnie Ramey regarding the Solid Waste holiday pay. The employees will use a vacation day for the Christmas holiday.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

GARY HABUTZEL - PRESENTATION OF INSURANCE INFORMATION

Gary stated that he was before the Commission this past spring and presented insurance

information. He stated that he spoke with Commissioner Notbohm at the MACo Conference in the fall and discussed the rate increase that Jefferson County has incurred. MJPT currently has 23 Montana counties enrolled, and new groups will be coming into the trust from Wyoming. He stated that their rate increases have been fairly predictable. Gary stated that currently with Teamsters, there is a \$5,000 max for prescriptions per year. MJPT can match this with a one-percent increase in the premium. He presented a duplication of the benefits that Jefferson County currently has, and a break-down of the costs and savings.

Commissioner Notbohm stated that currently, there is one retiree on the drug program that is being covered 100%. Gary asked if the person in question has Medicare. Commissioner Notbohm stated that they do. Gary stated that Medicare is the primary insurance, and the county insurance is secondary. This person would, of course, be eligible, as are all current employees.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked if pre-approval is needed for services. Gary stated that notification is only needed on elective, pre-planned in-patient hospital stays.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked if dental is included. Gary stated that it is not included in the estimates he presented, but he can get the figures.

Gary then presented the figures from Blaine County, which previously had Teamsters, so it is very comparable with Jefferson County. Commissioner Weber asked if pre-existing conditions are considered or if surveys are required. Gary stated that they are not. The only exception is if relatively new employees had pre-existing under Teamsters, they would have pre-existing for a short period of time with this plan.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked how many counties have been added to MJPT in the last three years. Gary stated that there have been eight to ten.

Commissioner Notbohm stated that he used to have a business and a small group policy. He was told that there would be no individual increases; the entire group would have to increase. He found this to not be true, and asked if there is any potential for this to happen with MJPT. Gary stated that for a group the size that MJPT is, 70% of the rate is based on how the group did, and 30% would be specific to Jefferson County. Any claim over \$30,000 would be covered by a pool made up from a portion of all premiums. This was set up so that others can help when a county has a difficult year.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked if there is a balance sheet for the trust. Gary stated that he can get that to the Commission. He thinks that the last time he looked at it, there was a balance of \$1.4 million. This would give them the ability to pay claims for 14 weeks with no money coming in. The best thing about the trust is that most of the money goes to pay premiums. Last year, administrative costs were kept to 7%.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked if there is any indication of how many more counties might be added from Wyoming. Gary stated that it has been slow; people are not familiar with the program yet. Commissioner Lythgoe asked how many counties are still with Teamsters. Gary

stated that Jefferson County is the last, and he encouraged the Commissioners to talk with other counties that were previously with Teamsters and have moved to MJPT.

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that they need to schedule a Department Head meeting and have a discussion with the Elected Officials and Department Heads. This meeting was scheduled for February 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that what is amazing to him is the fact that no matter how large a group is, it doesn't seem to make a difference in the premiums.

Gary stated that he will send the Commission the dental and visual premium information before the February meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER